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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,747	06/20/2005	Vincent Marcel Ghislain Alliot	Stolt-51	7701
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SUITE 975				
HOUSTON, TX 77057				
EXAMINER				
OMCBA, ESSAMA				
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3726				
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11/03/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/523,747

Applicant(s)

ALLIOT ET AL.

Examiner

Essama Omgba

Art Unit

3726

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34, 38 and 39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8, 38 and 39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

It is brought to Applicant's attention that the proper status identifier of claims 9-34 should be "withdrawn". Appropriate correction is required in subsequent communications.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-6, 8, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maine (US Patent 6,226,855) in view of Chlebowski (US Patent 4,357,745).

With regards to claim 1, Maine discloses a method of joining plastic-lined conduits comprising the steps of providing first and second conduits (16, 16A), each conduit comprising a wall of metal defining a bore having an open end for connection and being substantially lined by a plastic liner 18, 18A (col. 1, lines 55-59), the liner ending within the bore to leave a short unlined section at the open end of the conduit (fig. 2), arranging the first and second conduits with their ends abutting and welding the ends together to form a longer conduit (col. 3, lines 9-10), providing a tubular bridging member 2 of corrosion resistant member dimensioned to fit inside the conduits (col. 2, lines 16-20), the bridging member having first and second sealing portions (4, 6) towards ends thereof, the sealing portions being interconnected by an intermediate portion 8, the length of the intermediate portion being sufficient to bridge the unlined portions of the abutting first and second conduits while the first and second sealing portions overlap the

liners within the first and second conduits respectively (fig. 2), with the first sealing portion of the bridging member located within the first conduit and overlapping the liner, expanding the first sealing portion radially so as to press the first sealing portion against the liner to form a first seal between the liner and the bridging member (col. 2, lines 53-66), and with the second sealing portion of the bridging member located within the second conduit and overlapping the liner of the second conduit, expanding the second sealing portion radially so as to press the second sealing portion against the liner to form a second seal between the liner and the bridging member (col. 3, lines 3-8), whereby the liners, the first and second sealing portions and the bridging members form a continuous barrier between the interior bore of the lined conduits and the metal of the conduit walls (col. 3, lines 24-28). Maine does not disclose the dimensions of the bridging member and the sequence of the method steps to be such as to insure that there is a space between the material of the bridging member and the inside of the abutting ends of the conduits during at least an initial pass of the welding step. However Chlebowski teaches a bridging member 15 interconnecting two lined pipes (10, 17) wherein the dimensions of the bridging member and the sequence of the method steps are such as to insure that there is a space 23 between the material of the bridging member and the inside of the abutting ends of the conduits during at least an initial pass of the welding step, see column 3, lines 4-30 and figure 6. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have modified the intermediate portion the bridging member of Maine with the intermediate

portion taught by Chlebowski, in order to avoid the bridging member or the liners being damaged by heat generated during the welding process.

Regarding claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8, Applicant should note that the sequence of the steps is an obvious matter of design choice.

Regarding claim 4, see figure 2 of Maine.

Regarding claims 38 and 39, Applicant should note that the bridging member disclosed by Maine is a unitary piece made of corrosion-resistant metal.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 and 8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Essama Omgba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4532. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6:30, 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on (571) 272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Essama Omgba/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3726

eo
November 1, 2009